



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Valley Forge National
Historical Park

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Valley Forge NHP News Release

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Public Comment Period Extended for “Proposed Plan for Cleanup of the Valley Forge NHP Asbestos Release Site”

The time period for the public to comment on the “Proposed Plan for Cleanup of the Valley Forge National Historical Park Asbestos Release Site” has been extended. The comment period now will close on November 6, 2006.

For 75 years, asbestos and other waste materials were disposed of on lands that later became part of Valley Forge National Historical Park. Because of these disposal practices, approximately 112 acres of park land are closed to public use. The National Park Service has released a Proposed Plan that identifies and provides the rationale for the Preferred Alternative for cleaning up soils contaminated by historic disposal activities at what is now designated the Valley Forge Asbestos Release Site.

In the early 1800s, a limestone industry developed in the Port Kennedy area of what is now the park. A number of quarries were opened along County Line Road, from Port Kennedy west to Gulph Road. Beginning in the late 19th century, a private company manufactured asbestos-insulated products from a plant located on County Line Road. The company routinely disposed of manufacturing waste by pumping it through a slurry pipeline into the former limestone quarries in what had become Valley Forge State Park. Asbestos products continued to be manufactured until the plant was closed in the early 1970s. Congress established Valley Forge National Historical Park in 1976.

The Proposed Plan was prepared pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as Superfund. The Preferred Alternative would remove, for appropriate off-site disposal, all soils containing levels of contaminants that pose unacceptable risks to humans and the environment. The Proposed Plan also includes summaries of other cleanup alternatives evaluated for the Site.

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This document is issued by NPS, the CERCLA lead agency for Site response actions. NPS will select for the Site a final CERCLA cleanup option, known as the remedial action, after reviewing and considering all information submitted during a 30-day public comment period on the Proposed Plan. NPS may modify the Preferred Alternative or select another response action presented in this Proposed Plan based on new information or public comments. Therefore, the public is encouraged to review and comment on all of the alternatives presented in this Proposed Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED:

New dates are September 22, 2006 – November 6, 2006.

NPS will accept written comments on the Proposed Plan during the public comment period. An electronic copy of the Proposed Plan is available at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. The public may use this site to submit comments. The Administrative Record and the Proposed Plan may be viewed at the park's Welcome Center Desk during normal business hours throughout the public comment period.

PUBLIC MEETING:

The public meeting was held Thursday, September 28, 2006

NPS held a public meeting to explain the Preferred Alternative, as well as the other alternatives presented in the Feasibility Study. Oral and written comments also were accepted at the meeting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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